BACK THEN,
No.02
HOW SHE CRUCIFIED ME LIKE THAT IN THE TOWN SQUARE, STARING ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE.
HOW EMBARRASSING I MUST'VE LOOKED TO THE PUBLIC, PINNED TO THE WALL WITH ARROWS. THE HUMILATION HAS SINCE BEEN CARVED INTO MY MIND.
IT WAS LIKE,
SHE SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME.

HEY! YOU WERE BEAT UP BY CASEY, RIGHT? WHAT ROTTEN LUCK!
SHE'S SURE SOMETHING. JUST WHAT NOBLE FAMILY IS SHE FROM ANYWAY?
NONE. SHE'S JUST CASEY.
NONE?
SHE SAID SO HERSELF.
WORD IS, SHE USED TO BE FROM A SUPER DISTINGUISHED FAMILY,
BUT THREE YEARS AGO, SHE TOOK HER FAMILY'S PRIZED BOW, FORCED HER WAY INTO THE KNIGHTS, AND HAS BEEN OUT OF CONTACT WITH HER FAMILY EVER SINCE.

"WE MUST STRIVE TO REWARD THOSE BASED ON SKILL, NOT SOCIAL STANDING," RIGHT?
haha
TENSIONS WITH THE COUNCIL HAVE GOTTEN WORSE RECENTLY. IT MUST BE A HUGE WELCOME TO HAVE SOME NEW RECRUITS!
IT'S JUST LIKE COMMANDANT ALEXEI TO LET THAT GIRL IN.
A BOW... WAS IT THAT ONE?
SPEAKING OF REFORM, THEY'RE TALKING NOW ABOUT FORMING BRIGADES THAT HAVE BOTH NOBLES AND COMMONERS MIXED IN TOGETHER!
wa ha ha!
ha ha ha!
I BET SHE JUST GOT ON THE COMMANDANT'S GOOD SIDE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, I MEAN, YOU AND I, UH...
I WONDER WHY SHE WANTED TO JOIN THE KNIGHTS...?

?
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY, BUT PROBABLY TO GET AHEAD IN LIFE?
YAY!
MAN, FORGET ABOUT THAT CASEY CHICK AND JUST DRINK!!
YEAH!
Getting ahead? Would someone that threw away their title as a noble daughter,
really then join the knights, considering what they're like now?
WAHAHAHA
HEY,
ARE YOU THE ONE THAT GOT BEAT DOWN BY CASEY?
HUH?

HUH? WHERE AM I?
THE LOWER QUARTER?
HM?
UH...?
ALL THAT DRINKING DIDN'T HELP ME FEEL ANY BETTER...
DAMMIT... WHO THE HELL IS SHE?
SHOULD I GO BACK?

THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THAT SOUND...
Is it from over here?
THUMP!

CASEY

Casey
THUMP!
...UH

KEEP QUIET
YOU'LL WAKE THE RESIDENTS OTHERWISE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

PRAC-
TICE
WHAT... ARE YOU UP TO?
UM... WELL ... uhh
WELL, I CAN TELL THAT MUCH BUT, LIKE, WHY HERE? AND WHY NOW?
ISN'T THIS WHERE THE COMMON PEOPLE LIVE? THE LOWER QUARTER?
YES. KNIGHTS OF NOBLE BIRTH RARELY EVER COME HERE.

NOBLES
...
WELL,
THERE ARE FAR TOO FEW 'COMMONER-KNIGHTS' TO ADEQUATELY PATROL THE VAST LOWER QUARTER OF THE CAPITAL.
THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE HERE HAVE TO HIRE GUILDS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER.
WAIT, ARE YOU...
MUCH LESS ENOUGH TO HIRE A NOBLE KNIGHT LIKE CASEY
THESE GUYS PROBABLY DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO HIRE ANY KNIGHTS

LOOKING AFTER THIS AREA... JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO?
EVEN THOUGH NO ONE ASKED YOU TO?
SHE ACTS LIKE... THAT'S THE OBVIOUS THING TO DO
WHY... WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF IT AS A KNIGHT....?
I'M MORE THAN CAPABLE OF DOING SO, DON'T YOU THINK?

I WANT TO BECOME A KNIGHT.
??
AREN'T YOU AND I KNIGHTS ALREADY?
I DON'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
...IS THERE EVEN ANY POINT?

THERE IS.
What's with the total confidence?
Even though we're both knights, we see things completely differently
What am I even...

I...!
No, I shouldn't think about it anymore.
By the way, I oughta thank you for the other day!
...KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.

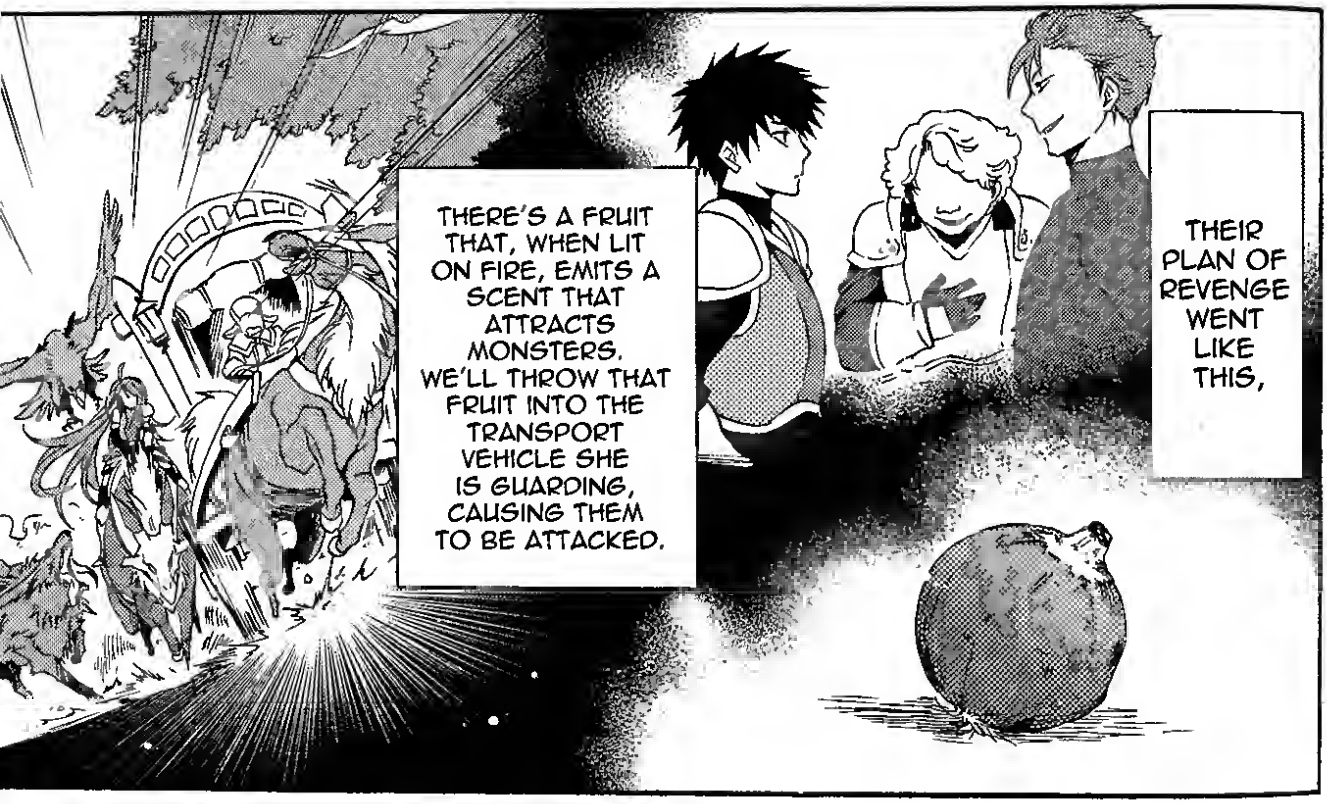
It was an amazing show of skill!
If you got a crush on me, you didn't need to do all that to impress me, y'know?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
A WORTH-LESS DRUNK? A DISGRACE TO ALL NOBLES?
OR MAYBE ...
CRASH

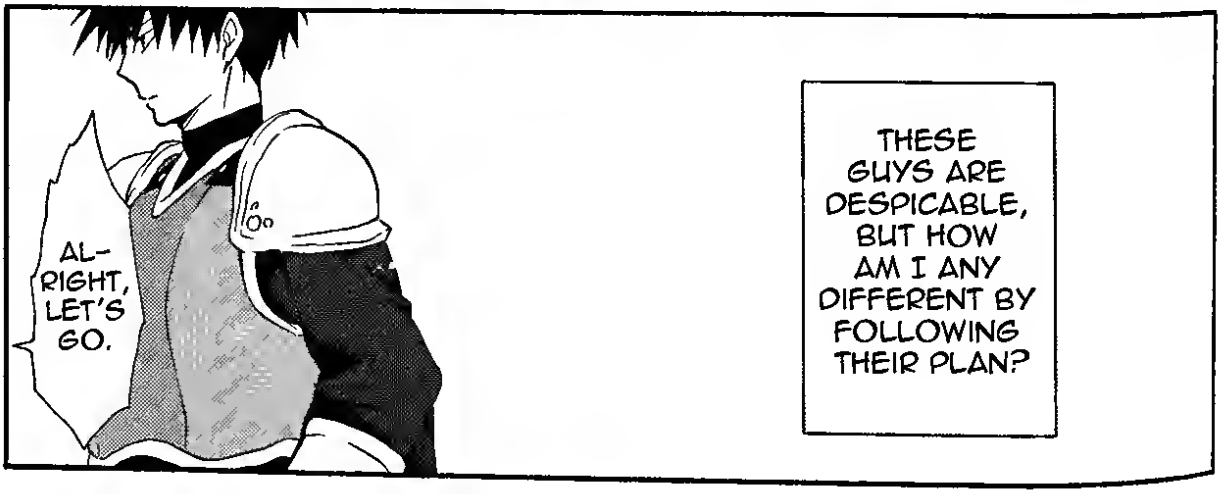
!
バラバラッ
THIS MIGHT BE INCONSI-DERATE OF ME TO SAY, BUT,
I BELIEVE YOUR SUFFERING STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT HOW YOU ACT CONFLICTS WITH HOW YOU TRULY FEEL.

I...
LEAVE BEFORE ALL THIS RACKET WAKES THE RESI-DENTS.
...
...
What a humili-ation

YEAH!
LISTEN UP! WITH THIS PLAN WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK AT THAT BITCH!
Several Days Later
What am I doing here...?

ONE DAY SOME GUYS APPROACHED ME AT A PUB. THEY HAD ALSO GONE THROUGH HELL BECAUSE OF CASEY
SO THEY THOUGHT OF ME LIKE ONE OF THEIR BUDS.


THEIR PLAN OF REVENGE WENT LIKE THIS,
THERE'S A FRUIT THAT, WHEN LIT ON FIRE, EMITS A SCENT THAT ATTRACTS MONSTERS. WE'LL THROW THAT FRUIT INTO THE TRANSPORT VEHICLE SHE IS GUARDING, CAUSING THEM TO BE ATTACKED.


THESE GUYS ARE DESPICABLE, BUT HOW AM I ANY DIFFERENT BY FOLLOWING THEIR PLAN?
AL-RIGHT, LET'S GO.

THEY ARE SO SET ON THE IDEA OF REVENGE,
THEY'D STOOP TO THIS NONSENSE ...
ONCE WE THROW THIS IN, WE HEAD FOR THE TREES! WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE MONSTERS OTHERWISE!
EUGH, THAT SMELL!
smells awful...
WHAT WOULD SHE THINK OF ME PARTICIPATING IN THIS, I WONDER?
MOST LIKELY THAT I'M EAGER TO RUIN MYSELF EVEN FURTHER.

THEY'RE COMING !!
HM?
UH...
H-HEY! THAT LOOKS LIKE WAY TOO MANY!

Oh no... I didn't think it'd be so effective
YOU OVERDID IT! THIS IS NO JOKE!
AGH! THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

……
あぁ
I…
おお
おお
ガウッ
ガウッ!!
I'LL CLEAR AWAY A PATH! KEEP PUSHING THROUGH!
キン!

just a split second
!!

SHE'S TAKING THEM ON ALL BY HER-SELF ...!?

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...!?

IS THIS ENOUGH?
I CAN GET BACK AT HER JUST AS PLANNED
SHOULD I BE SATISFIED WITH THIS!?

I believe your suffering stems from the fact that how you act,
conflicts with how you truly feel.

NO!!

UAAGH!